



Week of July 15, 2018

Mark 6:14-29

¹⁴ King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him."

¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."

¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her.

¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not,

²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

²² When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it."

²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer."

²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.

²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,

²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.

²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Talk about a time that you made a promise that you came to regret making.
- B. What's the best advice you were ever given? The worst advice?

Bible Study Questions:

1. Look at verses 14-16 and note that the story of how John was beheaded comes after the discussion of who Jesus is. Why do you think the story is told "backwards"?
2. In verse 20, discuss what you think Herod was thinking as he was perplexed by John and yet enjoyed listening to him. When is your faith life like that?
3. In verse 23, why do you think Herod made his promise to Herodias? Why do you think she asked her mother what to ask for?
4. In verse 17, John is citing a Scriptural prohibition against marrying your brother's ex-wife. Why do you think Herod was able to get away with the violation in the first place?
5. In verse 26, Herod feels bound by his promise. When do you think it is moral to break a promise?
6. If a king promised you anything that was within an earthly ruler's power to grant (for instance, this rules out superpowers or immortality), what would you ask for?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about decisions you are facing.